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INJUSTICE VS. MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE™

FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II
Colwell

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CHAPTER ONE

TO ETERNIA WITH DEATH

OPEN **ENFORCER** LOG.

ENTRY 738965.

I REPORT FROM THE OUTER EDGE OF THE THIRD QUADRANT, HEADING TOWARD THE UNIVERSAL CENTER AT **TRANSLUMINAL** SPEEDS.

I AM **ZODAC.**

BEFORE I TOOK TO THE SPACEWAYS I WAS THE LAST MEMBER OF THE **COUNCIL OF ELDERS** ON THE PLANET **ETERNIA.**

ETERNIA...AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION UNDULATING OVER THE COURSE OF ITS MANY MILLENNIA BETWEEN PERIODS OF GREAT STRIFE AND UNBOUND DISCOVERY.

ETERNIA IS HOME TO **CASTLE GRAYSKULL**, A FORTRESS HAUNTED BY AN ANCIENT SPIRIT.

IT IS WATCHED OVER BY THE BENIGN **SORCERESS**...

...AND PROTECTED BY HER CHAMPION, **HE-MAN**, WIELDER OF THE **SWORD OF POWER**, AND HIS NUMEROUS ALLIES.

MANY HAVE SOUGHT TO CLAIM GRAYSKULL'S SECRETS, MOST RECENTLY **SKELETOR**, **THE LORD OF DESTRUCTION**, BUT THE DEMON-WIZARD'S LOCATION IS CURRENTLY UNKNOWN, LEADING MANY TO BELIEVE HE IS NO MORE.

I FACTUALLY AND DISPASSIONATELY RECORD THIS ACCOUNT FOR THE SAKE OF TRANSPARENCY. TO ASSURE ANY WHO MAY HEAR IT THAT MY MISSION IS **UNBIASED**.

I MUST RETURN TO MY **HOMEWORLD** AS SOON AS THE PHYSICAL LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE WILL ALLOW, BECAUSE THE **COSMOGONIC EQUILIBRIUM** WILL SOON BE UPSET...

...AND BECAUSE I FEAR A **GREAT DARKNESS** FOLLOWS IN MY WAKE.

The Royal Palace.

Eternos. Capital city of Eternia.

THREE MONTHS, *FAKER!* THREE MONTHS GONE BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD STEAL MY *LIFE?!*

SHRAKAN

YES. AND IF NOT FOR ***MOSSMAN,*** YOU'D STILL BE WANDERING THE ***DWELL OF DELUSIONS*** IN A STUPOR WITH ***TEELA*** AND ***MAN-AT-ARMS.***

To Eternia with DEATH

YOUR PARENTS AND THAT ANNOYING IMP MAGE WOULD BE ROTTING IN A CELL.

FZZN

I WOULD STILL BE *KING HE-MAN,* SUPREME SOVEREIGN OF ETERNOS.

AND I'D BE ENJOYING MY *DAMN PARADE!*

KAFFROON

I'M DISAPPOINTED, *LIEUTENANT ANDRA.* YOU WERE ONE OF MY BEST RECRUITS.

BUT YOU BETRAYED THIS *KINGDOM* AND JOINED THE ROBOT'S COUP AS SOON AS YOU WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE.

SHING

MY SOLDIERS AND I GIVE OUR LOYALTY TO THOSE WHO DESERVE IT, *CAPTAIN TEELA.*

FAKER OFFERED US A FUTURE THAT LOOKED MORE LIKE ETERNIA'S PAST. WHEN WE WERE UNITED, STRONG AND UNAFRAID.

WHEN WE DIDN'T HAVE TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE *FREAKS AND ALIENS.*

RAZZLE FAZZLE, JIGGER AND JERKY--

WOK

I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN. YOU TAUGHT ME MUCH, BUT YOU WON'T BE JOINING THE FUTURE.

YOU FORGOT ONE OF MY MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS.

KLONG

LESS LIPS, MORE FISTS.

KRAKOOM!

YOUR REIGN IS OVER.

NO. NOT YET.

MOTHER. FATHER. THE IMPOSTOR MEANS TO EXECUTE YOU IN FRONT OF YOUR KINGDOM. LET ME TAKE YOU AWAY FROM HERE.

I DIDN'T SEE...I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE IS REAL, *MARLENA.*

IT'S ME, *KING RANDOR.* COME. COME TO YOUR SON.

RRRRRR

OH.

RAAAAO!

YOU MAY LOOK AND SOUND LIKE ME TO EVERYONE ELSE, FAKER.

BUT TO *BATTLE CAT,* YOU SMELL LIKE WHAT YOU ARE.

AHH!

SCRAP METAL.

DAMN YOU, *PRINCE ADAM!* DON'T YOU GET IT? WE WERE BETTER OFF WITHOUT YOU!

SPLAK

WHAT?

HE RAISED THE *MYSTIC WALL* AND KEPT OUTSIDERS FROM THE *DARK HEMISPHERE* FROM POURING IN.

HE PUNISHED CRIMINALS LIKE THEY DESERVED.

AND *HE* WOULD HAVE ENDED THE THREATS OF *HORDAK* OR *KING HISS* OR *COUNT MARZO* FOR GOOD.

SHE'S RIGHT. WE'RE CONSTANTLY UNDER ATTACK. THE WORLD NEEDS A STRONG LEADER AND HE GAVE US THAT. HE TOOK CONTROL, INSTEAD A' WAITIN' AROUND FOR THINGS TO HAPPEN.

AFTER THE AFFAIR WITH THOSE CATPEOPLE AND THE MUMMY MAN, EVERYONE KNOWS YOU WERE PRINCE ADAM ALL ALONG.* YET YOU CONTINUED REVERTING *TO HIM.*

*SEE HE-MAN/ THUNDERCATS!

WHAT GOOD IS BEING THE *MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE UNIVERSE...*

...WHEN YOU SPEND HALF THE TIME AS THAT *WEAKLING?*

FAKER WAS A *DICTATOR.* HE PUNISHED DISSIDENCE WITH TORTURE AND DEATH. HE TOOK AWAY YOUR RIGHTS. YOUR VOICE.

LET THE POWER RETURN.

HE-MAN USES HIS STRENGTH TO FIGHT FOR YOUR *FREEDOM.*

OR HE DOESN'T USE IT AT ALL.

WOW. AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I THINK WE'VE FINALLY GOT OUR GUY.

YES...LADY *ZATANNA...* I AGREE.

I NEVER BELIEVED HE WAS YOU. NOT FOR A SECOND.

A MOTHER KNOWS THESE THINGS.

FAKER LED US TO THAT CURSED PLACE. LOST US IN ENDLESS HALLUCINATIONS.

AND HE TOOK YOU PRISONER IN YOUR OWN *PALACE.*

I'M SO SORRY, MOM.

YOU SAVED US, ADAM. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

BESIDES, IN A COUPLE MORE DAYS I WOULD HAVE GOTTEN TO A BLASTER AND PUT A LASER BOLT RIGHT UP FAKER'S HARD DRIVE.

MOM...

THEY...THEY LIKED IT. HIM. THEY WERE OKAY WITH LIVING IN A ***POLICE STATE.*** THEY ***WANTED*** AN ***AUTHORITARIAN STRONGMAN.***

ADAM.

THOSE PEOPLE WERE A ***VOCAL MINORITY*** AT BEST. MOST OF THIS KINGDOM IS DANCING IN THE STREETS RIGHT NOW.

I HAVEN'T SEEN SO MANY DRUNK PEOPLE IN THEIR UNDERWEAR SINCE I WENT TO ***FORT LAUDERDALE*** IN COLLEGE. OF COURSE, I WAS ONE OF THEM...

THERE'S AN IMAGE I WISH I COULD LEAVE IN THE ***DWELL OF DELUSIONS.***

STILL, I GUESS I'D NEVER CONSIDERED IT UNTIL NOW...

ALL THESE YEARS I THOUGHT OF HE-MAN AS THIS ***BARBARIAN HERO*** WHO RIDES DOWN FROM THE HILLS TO SAVE ***CIVILIZATION,*** AND RUNS BACK OFF UNTIL HE'S NEEDED AGAIN.

BUT WHEN I DON'T HAVE A SECRET IDENTITY ANYMORE, DOES ANYONE REALLY ***NEED*** PRINCE ADAM?

WELL, I HAPPEN TO LIKE HIM.

TAKE SOME TIME TO YOURSELF, ADAM.

RANDOR AND I WILL ADDRESS THE PEOPLE, AND PLAN A NEW PARADE IN HONOR OF YOUR RETURN.

HM. PERHAPS I'LL REDECORATE THE THRONE ROOM FOR THE OCCASION IN ANDROID PARTS. WHAT GOES WELL WITH ORANGE AND BLUE?

HMP!

I HAVE...HIM. HE CAN...NOT SPEAK OR MAKE CONTACT WITH THE...*ENERGY BLADE.*

HNNGH!

I'M SO SORRY. I'M SO SORRY. I'M SO SORRY.

HE...CANNOT UNDERSTAND. YOUR TONGUE IS...STRANGE TO HIM.

RIGHT.

ETALSNART HSILGNE OT NAINRETE!

SWAMP THING...EASE UP. WE'RE NOT TRYING TO HURT YOU, ADAM. WE CAME TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP, OKAY?

YOU'VE GOT A HELL OF A WAY OF ASKING, LADY.

WE HAD TO BE CAREFUL. IMPULSIVE ACTIONS FROM MEN WHO CAN LEVEL MOUNTAINS WITH THEIR FISTS CAN HAVE *DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES.*

WE KNOW FROM *EXPERIENCE.*

WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE? AN ACOLYTE OF *BATROS?*

HAW!

HONESTLY, I DIDN'T GET THAT REFERENCE.

CYBORG. SHOW HIM.

GREATEST HITS COMIN' RIGHT UP, *BATMAN.*

WE CAME HERE FROM *EARTH,* TRAVELING VIA THE *GREEN* WITH OUR ALLY, THE ELEMENTAL *SWAMP THING.*

ONCE, OUR EARTH WAS PROTECTED BY AN ALLIANCE OF CHAMPIONS, LED BY THE POWERFUL AND INSPIRATIONAL KRYPTONIAN HERO *SUPERMAN.*

BUT A MANIPULATION BY CRIMINAL MASTERMIND *THE JOKER* LED SUPERMAN TO ACCIDENTALLY KILL HIS WIFE... AND HER UNBORN CHILD. IN RETRIBUTION, SUPERMAN MURDERED THE JOKER IN COLD BLOOD.

SEEKING TO ELIMINATE THE EVIL THAT LED TO TRAGEDY, SUPERMAN ESTABLISHED A POWERFUL REGIME, NAMING HIMSELF *HIGH COUNCILOR.*

HIS CONTROL WAS ABSOLUTE. MANY SUFFERED. MANY DIED. AN ARMY ROSE UP AGAINST HIM. AND SUPERMAN WAS DEFEATED BY A UNION OF HEROES FROM *MULTIPLE UNIVERSES.*

BUT PEACE WAS STOLEN WHEN EARTH WAS ATTACKED BY THE ALIEN *BRAINIAC.*

DESPERATE TIMES LED TO DESPERATE MEASURES, AND SUPERMAN WAS RELEASED TO HELP DEFEAT THE *COLLECTOR OF WORLDS.*

BUT IN VICTORY, SUPERMAN USED BRAINIAC'S TECHNOLOGY TO REESTABLISH HIS REGIME, CRUELER AND MORE CONTROLLING THAN EVER BEFORE.

SUPERMAN IS THE ***MOST POWERFUL MAN ON OUR WORLD.*** BUT HE HAS WEAKNESSES. SPECIFICALLY, ELDRITCH ENERGIES. ***MAGIC.***

HE DOES EVERYTHING HE CAN TO COLLECT ENCHANTED OBJECTS BEFORE THEY CAN BE USED AGAINST HIM.

AND HE MONITORS THE ***MULTIVERSE*** FOR WORLDS WHERE IT'S PREVALENT. LIKE ETERNIA.

CYBORG INTERCEPTED HIS RESEARCH. I SENT SWAMP THING AND ZATANNA TO OBSERVE YOU AND OTHERS.

WHAT YOU SAID TO YOUR PEOPLE, ADAM. IT CONVINCED US.

YOU'RE THE MAN WE NEED TO HELP DEFEAT SUPERMAN ONCE AND FOR ALL.

I TURN MY BACK ON YOU FOR ONE SECOND...

...AND YOU'RE ALREADY IN TROUBLE, ADAM.

LORDS OF MAGIC, PLEASE HAVE A CARE!

OOH! A PRETTY REDHEAD--

GUHH!

NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU CAN BECOME--

GROW THIS BALD GUY SOME LONG, LUSCIOUS HAIR!

--YOU'RE STILL NAIVE ENOUGH TO LISTEN TO ABSOLUTE BULL--

NO, TEELA.

MOSSMAN?!

THE *SWAMP THING* AND I BOTH SERVE THE *PARLIAMENT OF TREES.* THERE'RE NO LIES IN *THE GREEN.*

BATMAN SPEAKS TRUTH.

"THE HORRORS OF HIS WORLD ARE *REAL.*"

MY MA SAID THEY USED TO CALL THIS *CRIME ALLEY.*

YEAH WELL, THEY DON'T CALL IT THAT NOW. AIN'T NO CRIME BETWEEN HERE AND THE *METROPOLIS CRATER.*

YA KNOW WHAT MY MA ALSO SAID?

SHE SAID THAT SYMBOL USED TO STAND FOR SOMETHIN' GOOD.

YOUR MA'S CRAZY.

ALL THAT *BIG S* STANDS FOR IS *"SLAVES."*

YO, BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY, MAN. WALLS HAVE EARS.

AND *HEAT-RAY VISION--*

HALT. *CEASE THINKING.*

YOU ARE JUDGED GUILTY OF A *PRE-CRIME* BY *THE REGIME.*

YOUR SENTENCE IS *PAIN.*

AAAH!

KRAK

WOK

I WOULD CALL THAT A SUCCESSFUL DRY RUN FOR TWO NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

THE **BLACK ORACLE** SUCCESSFULLY IDENTIFIED AND LOCATED A **THOUGHTCRIME.**

AND THE **KRYPTECH** ARMOR ENSURED **COPPERHEAD** AVERTED AN ACT OF **INSURRECTION** AND **VANDALISM** WITH NO INSUBORDINATION OR ATTEMPTS TO RETURN TO HER SUPER-CRIMINAL WAYS.

THANK YOU, *DIANA.*

YOUR CONTINUED DEVOTION TO ***EFFICIENCY*** IS APPRECIATED. ***SUPERMAN*** OUT.

THAT'S WHAT IT'S ABOUT NOW. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. EFFICACY.

WE'VE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES, BUT I KNOW YOU SEE NOW THAT OUR SUCCESS RATE INCREASES BY 308.5%...

...WHEN *SUPERMAN AND BATMAN* WORK TOGETHER.

DETECTING. NEW CASE. MOSCOW.

*SUBJECT REGISTERS 9.7 ON **COWARDLY** INDEX. 8.8 ON **SUPERSTITIOUS**.*

*RECOMMENDATION. **STRIKE TERROR INTO HIS HEART.***

I AGREE, *BRUCE.* I AGREE.

SUPERMAN...

BEFORE YOU SEND THE *AMAZON* GALUMPHING ACROSS THE HEAVENS ON A NEW MISSION, MIGHT I, TOO, MAKE A RECOMMENDATION?

WHAT NOW, *SKELETOR?*

WHEN YOU DISCOVERED ME, BROKEN AND DYING, ALONE ON THIS HOSTILE ALIEN WORLD, YOU SAW THAT EVEN TO A GOD AMONG MERE MORTALS, I MIGHT BE USEFUL.

FOR LOWLY SKELETOR WAS ONCE A GREAT COLLECTOR OF MAGICAL ARTIFACTS, FROM THE *HAVOC STAFF* TO THE *DIAMOND RAY OF DISAPPEARANCE.*

"EVEN SO DIMINISHED, IT IS A SKILL I MAINTAIN. A SKILL THAT ALLOWS ME TO DETECT ITEMS BEFORE THEY MIGHT BE USED AGAINST YOUR MIGHTY FORM BY *INSURRECTIONISTS AND REBELS.*

"SO IT IS WITH GREAT GRATITUDE AND RESPECT THAT I TELL YOU, *HIGH COUNCILOR...*

"...INSTRUCT *WONDER WOMAN* TO GATHER THE *SNEAKERS* OF THE BOY NAMED *FREDDY FREEMAN.*"

MY FIRST DUTY IS ALWAYS TO ETERNIA, TO GRAYSKULL...

...AND TO YOU, SORCERESS.

YES, ADAM. BUT EVEN IF I WERE NOT POSSESSED OF THE WISDOM OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS, I WOULD SENSE THAT DESPITE YOUR TREPIDATION ABOUT YOUR DUTY...

...YOU WISH TO TRAVEL TO EARTH.

IT IS, AFTER ALL, A WORLD WITH WHICH YOU SHARE *HISTORY.* IT IS THE HOME-WORLD OF YOUR *MOTHER.*

SHE HAS SUCH FOND MEMORIES OF EARTH. OF AMERICA.

I-- I WANT IT TO BE THE WAY SHE REMEMBERS IT.

BUT--

MAN-AT-ARMS AND MANY OTHER HEROES OF THE REALM CAN BE READY TO DEFEND THE CASTLE AT THE CRY OF A FALCON.

IF YOU ARE NEEDED, I WILL CALL YOU BACK.

GO. BRING THE *POWER OF GRAYSKULL* TO THIS ENSLAVED WORLD.

YOU ARE A CHAMPION NOT JUST OF ETERNIA, ADAM...

...BUT ALSO OF THE UNIVERSE.

IT'S SETTLED. YOU HAVE MY SWORD. I'LL GO TO EARTH WITH YOU, ***BATMAN.***

NOT WITHOUT ME, YOU WON'T.

SUPERHUMAN AND TANNED OR NOT, IT'S STILL MY BODY TO GUARD, PRINCE.

OH! AND ME, TOO! CAN I COME?

UH, I'M NOT SURE THAT'S SUCH A GOOD IDEA...

WE NEED AS MANY MAGIC USERS AS WE CAN FIND.

ARE YOU REALLY A ***MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS?***

DOES A ***DINOSORB*** CRAP IN THE ***ASTEROID BELT?!***

BRING HIM. HE MAKES ME LAUGH.

CYBORG, SWAMP THING AND ***STARFIRE*** WILL STAY BEHIND TO AID THE ***SORCERESS*** IN YOUR ABSENCE.

AND I SHALL ALERT THE ***KING AND QUEEN*** OF YOUR MISSION.

YA DID GOOD, BABY BATS!

NEVER TOUCH ME AGAIN, ***QUINN. ZATANNA,*** READY A DOOR THROUGH ***THE GREEN.***

THERE'S JUST ONE MORE THING.

BY THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL!

ENFORCER LOG. ENTRY 738966.

FINALLY...

...I HAVE REACHED MY DESTINATION.

I AM SORRY, *FELLOW TRAVELER...*

...BUT NONE CAN EVADE THE TOUCH OF *THE BLACK RACER.*

AND THUS ARE MY BURDENS CONFIRMED. NO UNIVERSAL BALANCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL CAN BE MAINTAINED.

WHEN THE THREAT COMES FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE.

FRZZAK

MY MESSAGE... THE SORCERESS MUST KNOW...

HE COMES FOR **GRAYSKULL.** HE COMES...

NO, ENFORCER.

YOU ERR. THE *LORD OF APOKOLIPS* DOES NOT COME TO *ETERNIA.*

DARKSEID.

IS.

HERE.

FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II
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CHAPTER TWO

THE DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

Avion.

City of the Bird People. Perched high in the Mystic Mountains.

TELL ME, BROTHER, IS IT TRUE?

HE-MAN LEFT ETERNIA?

I SEE THE SCUTTLEBUTT MOVES FASTER THAN THE AIR CURRENTS. YES. OUR PRINCE HAS JOURNEYED TO THE WORLD CALLED EARTH.

I'LL NEED YOU TO BE EXTRA VIGILANT WHILE I LIAISE IN ETERNOS.

STRATOS, YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.

SKKZT STRANGE EARTHER SUPERHEROEZZZT CHSH

YOU'RE CUTTING OUT. IT'S JUST AS WELL. MY PATROL WILL BE TAKING ME OUT OF RANGE.

HAWKE OUT.

HM. AREN'T YOU A STRANGE FORMATION...?

DOOM DOOM DOOM

BY THE GREAT GOLDEN EGG.

SKY DEFENSE! THIS IS CAPTAIN HAWKE! UNKNOWN ATTACKERS HAVE BREACHED OUR AIRSPACE!

DOOM DOOM DOOM

"AVION IS UNDER SIEGE!"

FOR DARKSEID!

FOR DARKSEID!

CUT DOWN THE ENEMY!

GIVE NO QUARTER!

FOR DARKSEID!

The Double-Edged SWORD

THIS IS THE ***BLACK ORACLE.***

LOCATED IN THE ***METROPOLIS CRATER,*** IT'S ***THE REGIME'S*** CURRENT BASE OF OPERATIONS.

FROM HERE, ***SUPERMAN*** AND HIS LIEUTENANTS MONITOR THE WORLD FOR "THOUGHTCRIME," WHICH INCLUDES ANY NOTIONS OF DISSIDENCE.

ZATANNA'S SPELLS ARE THE ONLY THING PROTECTING US FROM ITS EYES, AND WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THAT'LL LAST.

THE ORACLE IS ALSO THE STAGING GROUND FOR ***WONDER WOMAN'S "SUICIDE SQUAD":*** SUPERHUMAN CRIMINALS CONTROLLED BY ***BRAINIAC'S KRYPTECH*** WHO ARE DEPLOYED TO DEAL WITH INSURRECTION.

IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SHUTTING THEM DOWN, WE NEED TO GET INTO THE ORACLE.

ANY QUESTIONS?

YES, I HAVE ***ONE.***

WHAT'S A *REPORTER?*

LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS PICKED A *WINNER.*

SHUT UP, *HOOD.* THIS ISN'T *HIS WORLD.*

IT'S LIKE A WRITER WHO RECORDS EVENTS, *HE-MAN.* SORT OF LIKE A CRIER MIXED WITH A SCRIBE, I GUESS.

AND *SUPERMAN* WAS ONE OF THESE BEFORE HE DOMINATED YOUR WORLD?

IT DOESN'T SEEM TO FIT. THE MAN IN THESE PICTURES AND STORIES YOU PROVIDED WAS NEVER A SORCERER OR A SOLDIER. HE NEVER DESIRED GREATER POWER.

THIS *SEEKER OF TRUTH* JUST DOESN'T SEEM CAPABLE OF THE ATROCITIES YOU DESCRIBE.

CLARK KENT WAS A REPORTER.

BUT SUPERMAN HASN'T BEEN CLARK KENT IN A *LONG TIME.*

BRAINIAC'S TECH HAS MADE HIM COLDER. MORE CALCULATING. CRUELER.

SUPERMAN HAS SECURITY PROTOCOLS TO MATCH EVERY MEMBER OF THE ***RESISTANCE'S*** STRENGTHS. COUNTERMEASURES FOR ALL OUR POWERS.

ONLY ***KRYPTECH WEARERS*** CAN GET IN OR OUT OF THE ORACLE, BUT DONNING THE ARMOR INSTANTLY ***DOMINATES THE USER'S MIND.***

BUT YOU'RE A WILD CARD, HE-MAN. SUPERMAN HASN'T CALCULATED YOU.

YOU MAY BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO PUT AN END TO THIS.

PERMANENTLY.

HEY, Y'OKAY, BABYBAT-- ***BATMAN?***

I'M FINE. IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY. EVERYONE GET SOME REST. MAKE YOUR PEACE. HOLD YOUR LOVED ONES IF YOU MUST.

WE STRIKE ***TONIGHT.***

HE'S A RAY OF SUNSHINE, HUH?

"PERMANENTLY."

I'M NOTHING BUT AN ***ASSASSIN*** TO HIM, ***TEELA.***

YOU VOLUNTEERED TO FIGHT A WAR.

YOU'VE PLAYED PRINCE. YOU'VE PLAYED HERO. BUT YOU'VE NEVER BEEN A SOLDIER.

I HAVE, ***ADAM.*** AND YOU SHOULD KNOW...

...WARS HAVE ***CASUALITIES.***

Eternia.

Darksmoke Prison. Ice Mountains.

LIGHTS OUT!

THAT INCLUDES YOU, *EVIL-LYN.*

OF COURSE, LITTLE MAN. FAR BE IT FROM ME...

...TO STAND IN THE WAY OF *ABSOLUTE DARKNESS.*

KRRNCH

EGHK!

TRI-KLOPS. DID YOU HEAR THAT?

I'M BLIND, NOT DEAF, *TRAP JAW.* AND I HEAR *THAT* AS WELL.

MY POOR, LOST BOYS...

...ABANDONED AND CAST ASIDE LIKE BROKEN TOYS.

SKRAK

BUT DON'T YOU WORRY NOW. I'LL PUT YOU BACK TOGETHER AGAIN.

GRANNY GOODNESS ALWAYS TAKES GOOD CARE OF ALL HER ***LITTLE CHILDREN...***

...AS LONG AS THEY PLAY ***NICE.***

IF WE'RE GOING TO SNEAK AROUND, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO UNDERCOVER.

THERE! ONE *NATIVE DISGUISE* COURTESY OF TROLLAN MAGIC!

WE LOOK JUST LIKE NATIVES OF--WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THIS CITY AGAIN?

THEIR COURT JESTER CALLED IT *BLÜDHAVEN.* MY MOM NEVER MENTIONED IT.

REALLY? CHEERY PLACE LIKE THIS?

EVERYONE HERE LOOKS LIKE *MAN-AT-ARMS* WHEN I VOLUNTEER TO HELP HIM.

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST GET BACK BEFORE BATMAN GETS ALL BATMAN ON US.

NO. NOT BEFORE I SEE IT FOR MYSELF.

MY MOM TOLD ME STORIES ABOUT *AMERICA* WHEN I WAS A KID. SHE SAID IT WAS A MASSIVE, CRAZY, BEAUTIFUL PLACE.

TO ME, IT WAS ANOTHER FAR-OFF MYTHIC KINGDOM. A FAIRY TALE.

A NATION WITHOUT KINGS OR QUEENS. WHERE GODS DIDN'T CHOOSE THEIR PEOPLE.

INSTEAD, PEOPLE CHOSE THEIR GODS.

HEY, HE-MAN? I DON'T QUITE HAVE ALL THE RULES FIGURED OUT YET...

...BUT NOT ALL EARTHMEN CAN FLY, RIGHT?

NO, ORKO. JUST THE SUPERHEROES, I THINK.

OH. WELL, THEN THAT EARTHWOMAN IS DEFINITELY FALLING.

IT'S OKAY. I HAVE YOU.

OH NO. OH NO NO. I HAD IT TIMED OUT! I HAD TO DO IT FAST!

WHAT DID YOU DO?!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT--?

INTENT TO SELF-HARM. IT'S... IT'S A *THOUGHTCRIME.*

THEY KNOW. THEY ALWAYS KNOW.

YOU ARE JUDGED GUILTY OF A *PRE-CRIME* BY *THE REGIME.*

YOUR JURY TODAY IS SUBJECT: *BANE.*

YOUR SENTENCE IS *PAIN.*

KA-THO-M

UNKNOWN IMPEDIMENT TO SENTENCING. CANNOT...

10101. CANNOT IDENTIFY. CANNOT PROCESS. CANNOT...

HE-MAN!

IT'S MY DISGUISE SPELL! IT'S MESSING WITH HIS ***KRYPTECH!*** MY MAGIC ***DOES*** WORK BETTER HERE THAN ON ETERNIA! *WHOOHOO!*

YOU ARE JUDGED GUILTY OF IMPEDING A SENTENCING.

AHH!

YOUR JURY TODAY IS SUBJECT: ***COPPERHEAD.***

YOUR SENTENCE IS ***DEATH.***

REASSESSING. UNKNOWN IMPEDIMENT...

KRK

KRKK

ORKO!

...MUST BE ***BROKEN.***

KATHOOM

HNGH!

HRRCH.

OH GOD.

UH, DON'T WORRY! I'M THE GREAT ORKO, JESTER SUPREME OF ETERNOS!

COME ON, FINGERS, DON'T FAIL ME NOW...

I REALLY NEED TO DO SOMETHING OTHER THAN COWER...

...SO BATHE THEIR ARMOR IN TROLLAN POWER!

HGK.

BREAK. BREAK. BREAK--HRNH!

HERE, BANE.

HEY! I HELPED! LIKE FOR REAL THIS TIME, RIGHT?

HNGH!

LET ME *FINISH* YOUR *SENTENCE.*

BRAKADOOM

HGK.

YOUR SPELLS DID SOMETHING TO THEIR ARMOR, ORKO. BATMAN SAID KRYPTECH ORIGINATED WITH A BEING OF PURE, CALCULATING LOGIC. MAYBE IT COULDN'T DEAL WITH SOMETHING THAT MAKES NO SENSE AT ALL.

THANKS! I THINK.

WH-WHERE ARE WE?

HNGH. DIOS MÍO.

YOUR WILL WAS OVERTAKEN BY SUPERMAN AND HIS REGIME.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE CRIMINALS ON THIS WORLD, BUT RIGHT NOW MY QUARREL ISN'T WITH YOU. YOU CAN RETREAT, AS LONG AS YOU CAUSE NO MORE TROUBLE...

...AND LEAVE BEHIND THE KRYPTECH ARMOR.

OR WE CAN CONTINUE OUR BATTLE.

BUT THIS TIME I'M BRINGING OUT *THE SWORD.*

BAH. THERE IS NO GLORY IN THREATENING CHILDREN.

I--I HAVE TO FEED MY CAT.

ORKO. LOWER MY DISGUISE.

OH. JEEZ. YOU'RE...YOU'RE *A BARBARIAN.*

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE AND I DON'T WANT TO. I HAVE TO GO.

FIRST YOU WILL TELL ME YOUR NAME.

R-REGINA. *REGINA TAYLOR.*

YOU TRIED TO END YOUR OWN LIFE, REGINA TAYLOR. WHY?

BECAUSE THE WORLD IS SUPPOSED TO BE FIXED AND PERFECT, BUT IT'S COLDER AND CRUELER THAN EVER.

I'M TIRED OF ENDANGERING EVERYONE AROUND ME JUST BECAUSE I CAN'T STOP THINKING THAT I DON'T MATTER ANYMORE.

I'M SICK OF *BEING A CRIME.*

LISTEN.

MY MOM CAME FROM YOUR WORLD.

SHE TRAVELED BILLIONS OF MILES ACROSS THE STARS. SHE FELL FROM THE HEAVENS ONTO A NEW WORLD.

EVEN LOST ON ANOTHER PLANET, SHE SURVIVED.

SHE FOUND LOVE.

SHE LED A NATION.

SHE BECAME QUEEN.

YOUR PEOPLE HAVE A GREAT STRENGTH INSIDE THEM, UNEQUALED IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

YOU ARE UNIQUE. VALUABLE. AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU CANNOT FACE, REGINA.

I WILL SAVE THIS WORLD, REGINA.

YOU MUST LIVE TO SEE IT.

I'VE GOTTEN AROUND. I CAUGHT A RIDE IN THE *MONITOR'S* SATELLITE ONCE. CRUISED IN *BRAINIAC'S* SKULLSHIP.

EVEN RODE ON *BEAST BOY'S* BACK WHEN HE WAS A BIG, GREEN HIPPO THAT ONE TIME.

BUT HANGING FROM THE RIBS OF A *REANIMATED DINOSAUR SKELETON?* THAT'S A FIRST.

YOU EARTHMEN. SO SHELTERED.

YOU HAVE MY APOLOGIES, *CYBORG.* NORMALLY I'D OFFER VISITORS A MORE COMFORTABLE ACCOMMODATION...

...BUT THIS LATE IN THE SEASON, THE PATH TO *DARKSMOKE* IS TOO TREACHEROUS FOR MOST OF OUR MACHINES.

HEY, THEY CAN'T ALL BE AS SOPHISTICATED AS ME.

MAN-AT-ARMS...

I SCOUTED AHEAD. IT SEEMS THE LACK OF CONTACT WITH THE PENITENTIARY CAN BE EXPLAINED, UNFORTUNATELY.

BY THE *SPIRIT OF GRAYSKULL.*

IT'S GONE.

THE ROOTS FAR BELOW THE SURFACE TELL A TALE. SCREAMING. CRUEL LAUGHTER.

YES...MY FRIEND...AND THEN INTENSE HEAT...LIKE THE HEART OF A SUN.

AMBIENT RADIATION INDICATES A MASSIVE BUT CONTAINED RELEASE OF NEGATIVE QUANTUM FORCES.

ANTIMATTER.

STRATOS. WE MUST GET TO *CASTLE GRAYSKULL.*

I'VE HAILED AVION. THERE'S...THERE'S NOTHING.

YOU'VE BEEN ON MORE BATTLEFIELDS THAN ANYONE. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, *DUNCAN?*

HNNH.

ERROR. SUBJECT ESCAPED... JUSTICE. GHK.

OOH, THAT REALLY GETS HIS GOAT, DOESN'T IT?

OR PERHAPS THE GREAT, ORIGINAL BATMAN JUST DOESN'T LIKE BEING *SIDELINED.*

WE LOST TWO MEMBERS OF THE *SUICIDE SQUAD.* HE'S RECEIVING... *INCENTIVE* TO AVOID FUTURE FAILURES.

TWO AGENTS OFFLINE, *SKELETOR.* WHEN WE HAVE THE RESISTANCE ESSENTIALLY CONTAINED. I DON'T LIKE NOT KNOWING WHY.

HAVE YOU DETECTED ANY RECENT ESOTERIC ITEMS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN USED BY AN INSURRECTIONIST?

HM. I HAVE NOT, *HIGH COUNCILOR.* BUT AN UNKNOWN ARTIFACT MUST BE THE CAUSE. SURELY THE SHE-GIANT NEVER MAKES MISTAKES.

I WILL RETURN TO MY STUDY AND GAZE DEEPER INTO MY SCRYING POOL, GREAT *SUPERMAN.*

I LIVE ONLY BECAUSE OF YOUR KINDNESS, SO I LIVE TO SERVE.

YOU DON'T LIKE HIM, DO YOU, *DIANA?*

IT MATTERS NOT. HE IS USEFUL.

"AND TOO PATHETIC TO POSE A THREAT."

YES, ***WONDER WOMAN.*** PATHETIC SKELETOR.

ONCE THE FINEST ACOLYTE OF ***HORDAK,*** WHO SURVIVED THE HORRORS OF HIS TEST AND EVEN MANAGED TO BEST HIS FORMER MASTER.

PATHETIC SKELETOR, WHO DROVE THE ***COUNCIL OF ELDERS*** INTO EXILE AND BESTED CHAMPION AFTER CHAMPION, UNTIL THAT DAMNABLE ***PRINCE ADAM*** LIFTED ***THE POWER SWORD*** AGAIN.

PATHETIC SKELETOR, WHO ONCE HELD THE ORB OF KNOWLEDGE AND GAZED INTO THE NEXUS OF REALITIES, BEFORE HE WAS CAST INTO THIS LOWLY DIMENSION.

PATHETIC SKELETOR.

WHO WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO ***HAVE THE POWER*** AGAIN.

HE-MAN LEFT?!

BATMAN. WATCH THAT TEMPER MAYBE, HUH?

MY TEMPER?! WE SCOURED WORLDS FOR HIM, HARLEY! WE LOST GOOD SOLDIERS TO BRING HIM HERE!

AND HIS "BODYGUARD" LET HIM SKIP OUT THE DAMNED FRONT DOOR!

DON'T YOU DARE CHASTISE ME.

YOU SEE A SAVAGE WAR GOD WITH A FLAMING SWORD-- BUT INSIDE HE'S STILL A STUBBORN, IRRESPONSIBLE, TEENAGE BOY FORCED TO GROW UP FAR TOO FAST!

YOU CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND, BATMAN.

IT'S OKAY, TEELA. YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR ME. I WENT OUT.

BUT I GOT YOU A PRESENT.

AND NOW...

...ORKO AND I HAVE A PLAN.

DAILY PLANET

Freddie E. Williams II
Colwell

CHAPTER THREE

CITY OF DARKNESS

Metropolis Crater.

The Black Oracle.

THEY'RE *STILL* OUT THERE.

IT'S EXHAUSTING. AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THEY'RE STILL FIGHTING AGAINST OUR PERFECT WORLD, *DIANA.*

YES. BUT THEY'RE WEAK. THEIR MOST DANGEROUS AGENTS... THE ELEMENTALS, THE ALIENS AND THE ANDROIDS...HAVE BEEN DRIVEN INTO EXILE. SUPERGIRL RESIDES IN THE PHANTOM ZONE.

WITH A FINAL, DEDICATED CAMPAIGN THE TWO OF US COULD CRUSH WHAT LITTLE REMAINS.

LET US GO, SUPERMAN. TONIGHT.

I ALWAYS ADMIRE YOUR DRIVE, DIANA. BUT... I WAS THINKING OF MAYBE GETTING SOME SLEEP.

IT'S BEEN... WEEKS, I THINK. MAYBE MONTHS.

LOIS USED TO MAKE ME SLEEP.

SHE SAID I COULD DO SO MANY AMAZING THINGS FOR REAL, THAT I HAD TO MAKE SURE I NEVER STOPPED DREAMING OF THINGS I COULDN'T. LIKE A HUMAN.

I ALWAYS TRIED TO SEE THE WORLD THROUGH HER EYES.

HIGH COUNCILOR SUPERMAN. LOWLY *SKELETOR* HAS DETECTED SOMETHING YOUR GREATNESS MAY FIND OF INTEREST.

I SEE A WEAKENING OF THE WALLS BETWEEN WORLDS IN THE LAND CALLED *INDIA.*

A FLEDGLING CONJURER IS ATTEMPTING TO SUMMON THE DEMON BROTHERS *ABNEGAZAR, RATH AND GHAST.*

PERHAPS SIMPLE WIZARDLY CURIOSITY, BUT--

IT COULD BE CONNECTED TO THE *RESISTANCE.* AN ATTEMPT TO SUMMON FORCES THAT COULD HURT ME.

I'LL GO.

NO. YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH, AND THEY STILL WON'T ACCEPT WHAT WE'VE GIVEN THEM.

I'LL HANDLE IT PERSONALLY.

DO YOU KNOW WHY HE KEEPS YOUR ROTTING CORPSE AROUND?

BECAUSE HE'S DESPERATE TO BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE... ***ANYONE*** WHOSE LIFE HE SAVED WOULD REWARD HIM WITH ***DEVOTION.***

HMP.

ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT HE FIGHTS.

AND SEES THERE'S NO NEED FOR DREAMS WHEN WE CAN MAKE EVERY DESIRE REALITY.

Blüdhaven.

THE ORACLE IS SURROUNDED BY PYLONS FUELED BY INDEPENDENT ANTIMATTER REACTORS, WHICH GENERATE AN ELECTROMAGNETIC DOME.

ONLY THOSE BEARING *KRYPTECH* ARMOR CAN GET THROUGH THIS INVISIBLE SHIELD WITHOUT IMMEDIATELY UNLEASHING THE FULL FORCE OF ITS DEFENSES--DEFENSES THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO KILL EVERY MEMBER OF *THE RESISTANCE.*

BUT *HE-MAN* MANAGED TO COMMANDEER TWO KRYPTECH ARMOR UNITS, AND RECONFIGURE THEM WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF *ORKO'S... UNIQUE SKILLS.*

TEELA AND I WILL GET IN AND DESTROY THE *CENTRAL CONTROL ARRAY* IN THE *ORACLE.*

THAT'LL DISCONNECT ALL THE PRE-PROGRAMMED WEAPON SYSTEMS.

YOUR FORCES WILL OVERWHELM THE ORACLE AND BRING DOWN *WONDER WOMAN'S SUICIDE SQUAD.*

AND THEN WE'LL TAKE YOUR WORLD BACK FROM *SUPERMAN.*

I'M GOING, NO IFS, ANDS OR BUTS. WHICH IS GOOD, BECAUSE I LACK A BUTT TO BEGIN WITH. SO DON'T TRY AND TALK ME OUT OF IT, *ADAM.*

I WASN'T GOING TO. WE NEED YOU. THIS PLANET NEEDS YOU.

REALLY? OH WOW. I COULD GET USED TO THIS.

HERE ON EARTH, I'M USEFUL! HERE--

--I'M A **BADASS.**

HE-MAN. A WORD.

NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR EARLIER.

I SHOULD HAVE ALERTED YOU THAT I INTENDED TO SEE THIS PLANET FOR MYSELF.

I'M NOT APOLOGIZING.

I WASN'T SURE ABOUT YOU. NOT AT FIRST.

YOU STARTED THIS GAME SO YOUNG. YOU'RE IMPETUOUS AND PROUD. YOU'RE A SPOILED PRINCE WITH THE PRESSURE OF A HEROIC LEGACY HANGING OVER YOU.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE TOO DAMNED MUCH LIKE *ME.*

MY NAME IS *DAMIAN WAYNE,* SON OF BRUCE WAYNE. I'M THE HEIR TO THE MANTLE OF THE BATMAN.

ON THE PATH TO ATTAINING MY LEGACY, I SHED BLOOD.

I KILLED MY BEST FRIEND.

AND THOUGH WE SHARE MUCH, ADAM, YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW WE'RE DIFFERENT.

YOU MAKE *YOUR PARENTS* PROUD.

Eternia.

DAAAMN.

HO, SORCERESS.

HO, MAN-AT-ARMS OF ETERNOS AND--?

VIC STONE, MA'AM. OF DETROIT. PEOPLE CALL ME CYBORG.

WELCOME TO CASTLE GRAYSKULL, CYBORG.

"I SEE YOU AND DUNCAN BROUGHT FRIENDS."

DARKSMOKE PRISON HAS BEEN COMPLETELY ERADICATED BY UNKNOWN FORCES. THE STATUS OF ITS INMATES IS UNCLEAR. STRATOS IS ON HIS WAY TO AVION AFTER HAILS TO THE HIGH CITADEL WENT UNANSWERED.

SOMETHING'S VERY WRONG.

THE CASTLE STANDS STRONG. BUT I'VE KNOWN YOU LONG ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT YOUR INSTINCTS ARE NEVER MISGUIDED.

TO THAT END, I'VE SUMMONED POINT DREAD AND *THE TALON FIGHTER* TO ASSIST THE *MASTERS* IN CASE OF AN ASSAULT.

IN THE MEANTIME, I WILL SPEAK WITH THE *DEEP SPIRITS.* PERHAPS THEY HAVE SOME INSIGHT AS TO WHAT HAPPENED AT DARKSMOKE.

WE TOOK HE-MAN. IF...WHAT IF THIS IS ON US?

NO, VICTOR STONE. YOU DID NOT DO THIS. ADAM WAS RESTLESS. HE'D BEGUN TO QUESTION HIS DUTY.

HE WENT TO EARTH OF HIS OWN ACCORD, WITH MY BLESSING.

I MUST GUARD ALL OF SPACE AND TIME. I BALANCE EACH CHOICE FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

NOT EVEN THE *ORB OF POWER* CAN ASCERTAIN THE FUTURE...

...BUT I KNOW EVERY TOMORROW WILL NEED HE-MAN.

IT'S NICE, ISN'T IT, ***RAM-MAN?*** HOW ***SWAMP THING*** FOUND SOMEONE SO LIKE HIM ON THIS WORLD. TWO MEN OF ***THE GREEN.*** INSTANT BEST FRIENDS.

HM. I THINK PERHAPS I'D LIKE TO FIND AN ***ETERNIAN COMPANION*** TO BOND WITH WHILE I'M HERE AS WELL.

FISTO AT YOUR SERVICE, MY LADY.

HI THERE. ***SNOUT SPOUT.*** FIREFIGHTER.

I AM ***SY-KLONE*** AND I CAN SHOW YOU THE WONDERS OF THIS LAND.

I'M SORRY, DID YOU SAY YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ***CLAMP CHAMP?***

MASTERS! *I'VE GOT INCOMING! UNIDENTIFIED MISSILE!*

STRATOS!

I WOULD HAVE ADDED HIM TO OUR ARMY. BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, DUE TO SOME RECENT ADDITIONS...

I FOUND ***THIS*** FEATHERED THING HEADING ON ITS WAY TO OUR ***NEW STAGING GROUND.***

THE END

...I HAVE *QUITE ENOUGH.*

X'HAL. STEPPENWOLF.

WARRIORS OF ETERNIA.

PRINCESS KORIAND'R OF TAMARAN COMMANDS YOU.

ATTACK AND DEFEND!

THIS CITY. I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH DEVASTATION.

THEY SAY SUPERMAN'S ALMOST A GOD. WHY DIDN'T HE REBUILD THIS ***METROPOLIS?***

FROM THE TALES I READ... HE DID.

AND THEN HE PUT IT BACK THE WAY IT WAS AFTER THE EXPLOSION. RIGHT DOWN TO EVERY DETAIL.

HE SAID THE WORLD NEEDED A ***REMINDER*** OF WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF THEY DIDN'T LISTEN TO HIM.

HERE IT IS, ORKO. THE MOMENT OF TRUTH.

AW JEEZ. I HOPE THIS WORKS. ALL I NEED IS FOR THIS TO TURN OUT LIKE THE ***DISAPPEARING COW*** TRICK AT ***KING RANDOR'S*** BIRTHDAY PARTY.

THE THRONE ROOM STILL SMELLS LIKE A HAMBURGER.

SUBJECT IDENTIFIED: ***BANE.***

RETURN TO ***SUICIDE SQUAD HOLDING*** *FOR PROCESSING OR RISK ACTIVATION OF* ***WALLER SANCTION.***

SO FAR...

THRMBL

NOT GOOD!

YOUR MAGIC REEKS OF ***LIFE.*** YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE.

ROT BEINGS FROM THE BLACK REALM! SUPERMAN MUSTA SEEDED THE GROUNDS WITH THEM TO HELP WARD OFF SWAMP THING N' ZATANNA!

ORKO. STAY HERE UNTIL THE ARRAY IS DOWN, OKAY?

I'LL HANDLE THEM. GO, ADAM.

DESTROY THE CONTROL CENTER. NOW.

SPLAK

I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE SHE DIDN'T YELL ORDERS AT HE-MAN UNTIL SHE FOUND OUT ADAM AND I WERE THE SAME GUY.

EXCUSE ME, GUYS.

MIND IF I CUT IN?

REEIGH!

KLONG

HNF!

INTRUDER. ASSESSING. UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY.

YOU ARE JUDGED GUILTY BY THE REGIME.

YOUR SENTENCE IS DEATH.

BATMAN WANTED A WILD CARD. WELL, HERE GOES...

BY THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL...

I HAVE THE POWER!

GOOD BOY.

SHRAK KTHOOM

HNH.

KRYPTECH KZZT REEE RECONNN NZZT

RECONFIGURING.

WOW. I'LL SAY.

SUBJECT: UNIDENTIFIED. YOU ARE JUDGED GUILTY OF A *CRIME* BY *THE REGIME.*

HNG!

KROOM

YOUR JURY TODAY IS SUBJECT: *LOBO.*

SUBJECT: *DEATHSTROKE.*

SUBJECT: *KILLER FROST.*

SUBJECT: *SOLOMON GRUNDY.*

SUBJECT: *CHEETAH.*

SUBJECT: *GRODD.*

RANCID BEAST FROM THE ROT, CHILL RIGHT OUT AND--

BEING OF THE WHITE, I WILL FEAST UPON YOUR ESSENCE FOR CENTURIES.

OH GOLLY.

GLORP

ORKO!

SLAM

WELL, SOMEONE GO AHEAD AND SERVE ME UP A STEAMING PLATE OF CROW.

I WAS WRONG, *BAT-MITE.*

YOUR SPACE-BARBARIAN BUDDY DID THE JOB.

NOW PICK UP A STICK AND START WHACKING.

DAMN IT ALL. I HATE BEING RIGHT ALL THE TIME.

MY SENSORS SHOW SEVERAL THOUSAND INCOMING AIRBORNE HOSTILES.

BY THE ARMS OF PROCRUSTUS. THE ***BIRDMEN OF AVION.***

THEY MUST BE UNDER SOME EVIL INFLUENCE. WE CAN SAVE THEM--

THEY'VE BEEN CHANGED INTO PARADEMONS BY THE DARK SCIENCE OF ***DESAAD,*** DUNCAN. HE WOULD NEVER LET A GLIMMER OF LIGHT SURVIVE. I'M SORRY, BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE THEM.

YOU GET ME?

TOO WELL.

IF WE'RE DEALING WITH ***DARKSEID,*** WE NEED ALL THE FIREPOWER WE CAN GET. I'M TAKING THIS THING.

NO, STAY HERE. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.

I SUPPORTED SUPERMAN AT FIRST. IT'S MY FAULT IT'S AS BAD AS IT IS NOW. AND THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL I'M LETTING ANOTHER WORLD GO DOWN ON MY WATCH.

THEN I'LL MAN THE CANNON. ARE YOU A PILOT?

CLOSE ENOUGH.

CHOOM

COMPUTER. INTERFACE AND INITIALIZE.

IT'S DIFFICULT TO CONTROL. IN FACT, IT'S KNOWN TO BE DOWNRIGHT ***CANTANKEROUS.***

A WARNING: ***THE TALON FIGHTER*** IS AN ANCIENT WAR MACHINE.

THEN WE OUGHT TO GET ALONG JUST FINE.

FZAK FZAK FZAK

FOR GRAYSKULL! FOR THE SORCERESS!

SHZAK

"I HAVE GIVEN YOU FREEDOM."

"I HAVE GIVEN YOU AN ESCAPE FROM THE *CONCERNS OF CHOICE* AND THE *TYRANNY OF WILL.*

"YOUR WILL IS NOW MY WILL.

YOUR DESIRES ARE NOW *MY DESIRES.*

I DESIRE THE ***ANTI-LIFE EQUATION,*** THE ANCIENT WISDOM THAT PROVES SENTIENT EXISTENCE IS UTTERLY MEANINGLESS.

THE EQUATION THAT BEQUEATHS MY GIFTS TO ALL.

GO, MY ADOPTED CHILDREN. FOR WHAT I WANT RESIDES INSIDE *CASTLE GRAYSKULL.*

SUBJECT UNIDENTIFIED.
UNKNOWN ASSAILANT IS JUDGED GUILTY.
NEW *SUICIDE SQUAD* ASSIGNMENT.
TERMINATE SUBJECT.
IDENTIFY BODY.
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO I AM?
IT'S NOT A SECRET. NOT ANYMORE.
FABULOUS SECRET POWERS WERE REVEALED TO ME THE DAY I HELD ALOFT MY MAGIC SWORD AND SAID--
SCREEEEE
AAAAGH!
I'M ADAM. PRINCE OF ETERNIA.

THANK YOU, *BLACK CANARY.*

NO PROBLEM, HANDSOME.

HEY! I'M *RIGHT HERE!*

PRIORITY ALERT! SUBJECT HARLEEN QUINZEL IS GUILTY OF 1,457 THOUGHTCRIMES--

WHAM

AND PROUD A' EVERY ONE OF 'EM, PUN'KIN!

LOOK ALIVE, *HE-PUDDIN'!*

YOUR RIDE'S HERE!

GNIOG PU?

FATHER! I'VE BROUGHT ALLIES. WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE YOU.

GOD. WHAT HAS SUPERMAN DONE?

DETECTING INSURGENT INTRUDERS. RECOMMENDATION--

STRIKE TERROR INTO THEIR HEARTS.

IT'S UP TO YOU, ORKO...

WHICH IS A THING I'LL NEVER GET USED TO SAYING.

EYE OF NEWT, TAIL OF CAT, TROLLAN MAGIC...

...UNLEASH THAT BAT!

ANGHK!

KUH. K-KARA? WHAT--WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU?

IT'S *ME*, BATMAN.

HOW?

SUPERMAN SAID HE WANTED TO SAVE THE WORLD. SAVE US ALL. BUT HE DIDN'T EVEN CARE ABOUT HIS ***OWN COUSIN.*** THE LAST OF HIS LINE.

HE JUST USED ***SUPERGIRL*** FOR HIS OWN ENDS. HIS OWN EGO.

LIKE ***RA'S AL GHUL.*** LIKE MY GRANDFATHER DID TO ME.

BLOOD MEANS NOTHING TO HIM.

BUT...BUT IT MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME.

HNH?

YOU ALREADY SPEAK TRUTH, YOUNG WAYNE.

LEAVING MY LASSO TO EXERCISE ITS *OTHER FUNCTION.*

DAMIAN!

COME, GIRL. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I BROKE IN A NEW SHIELD-MAIDEN.

RAAH!

SKELETOR?!

SURPRISED, I SEE. YOU THOUGHT ME DEAD? KILLED IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEFEAT THE ***MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE UNIVERSE*** ONCE AND FOR ALL?

NO, OLD FRIEND. I'M AFRAID YOU'VE MISTAKEN ME...

TEELA!

I DO HOPE THEY HURT EACH OTHER.

...FOR YOU.

CITY OF DARKNESS

FREDDIE E.
WILLIAMS II
Colwell

CHAPTER FOUR

THE ULTIMATE BATTLEGROUND

The Black Oracle. Metropolis.

I--I...

OH GOSH. YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

AND I'M A *FLOATING ALIEN MAGICIAN*, SO THIS PROBABLY ISN'T HELPING YOUR CONFUSION MUCH, BUT HERE GOES...

SUPERMAN AND HIS BRAINIAC TECHNOLOGY ENSLAVED YOU. THEY MADE YOU HUNT DOWN DISSIDENTS FOR THEM.

YOUR SON BROUGHT MY FRIENDS *HE-MAN AND TEELA* TO SAVE YOU FROM *SUPERMAN AND WONDER WOMAN.* AND...HE...WELL, WONDER WOMAN, SHE...

DAMIAN.

ORKO? THAT'S YOUR NAME, RIGHT? I NEED YOU TO STAY HERE, SON. THIS ISN'T YOUR FIGHT.

YES, SIR.

"WONDER WOMAN IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

AND I--

I'M THE LEADER OF *THE RESISTANCE.*

I'M BRUCE WAYNE.

I'M *BATMAN.*

I AM... *A FATHER.*

SKELETOR. RETREAT TO YOUR LAB. I'LL DISPOSE OF THIS ASSASSIN.

YES, GREAT *HIGH COUNCILOR,* AS YOU WISH.

I LIVE TO *SERVE.*

I'VE SCOURED THE *MULTIVERSE* FOR POTENTIAL DANGERS TO MY WORLD. I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, *HE-MAN.*

MAGIC SWORD. GREAT STRENGTH.

BUT YOU'RE YOUNG. INEXPERIENCED. A ROBOT COPY RECENTLY USURPED YOU.

LOGIC DICTATED YOU WERE LOW ON THE LIST OF *POSSIBLE THREATS* FROM THE *ORRERY OF WORLDS.* FAR BELOW *DARKSEID.*

BELOW *CAPTAIN CARROT* EVEN.

THE RESISTANCE MUST BE DESPERATE. YOU WEREN'T A GOOD LEADER.

YOU COULDN'T GIVE YOUR PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANTED.

WOULDN'T.

NO. I GAVE MY PEOPLE WHAT YOU TOOK AWAY FROM YOURS, *SUPERMAN.*

I GAVE THEM *A CHOICE.*

SKRAKOOM

"I LIVE TO SERVE." HAHAHAH--

SO *YOU'RE* HIM.

THE *DEMON MAGE* WHO'S BEEN HELPING SUPERMAN FIND *MAGICAL ARTIFACTS.*

AND WHO'S BEEN TRYING TO BREAK MY *SPELLS OF CONCEALMENT* AND FIND *THE RESISTANCE.*

TRYING.

BUT NOT *TOO HARD.*

THIS *ACCESS POOL.* IT GOES TO *ETERNIA,* DOESN'T IT?

THEY STILL TALK ABOUT YOU THERE, YOU KNOW.

THEY SAY YOU WERE CUNNING. MANIPULATIVE. A SCHEMER.

WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT, *SKELETOR?*

WHY, *LADY ZATANNA,* I AM BUT A BROKEN REFUGEE IN A FOREIGN LAND, ARMED ONLY WITH *MY CHARM...*

...AND A BIG DAMN MAGICAL SWORD.

Eternia. Castle Grayskull.

CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM

BRING THEM DOWN! LET NO ONE ENTER THE CASTLE!

TELL ME, LITTLE MAN. WHAT GODS DO YOU PRAY TO ON THIS STINKING WORLD?

SHRAK

AND WILL THEY STILL ACCEPT YOU WHEN YOU DIE FOR YOUR *NEW* GOD? WHEN YOU GIVE YOUR BLOOD FOR *STEPPENWOLF*?

FACTS. SCIENCE.

I'VE WASTED BLOOD ON GODS BEFORE.

NOW I PUT MY FAITH IN WHAT I KNOW IS REAL.

HNH!

PHYSICS.

AAAA!!

HNGH. MY ARMOR MUST BE GETTING HEAVIER.

MEN! HOW FARES--

--THE BATTLE? MY GODS.

MAN-AT-ARMS! THE PARADEMONS GOT BACK UP!

SKELETOR'S MERCS. FAR BE IT FROM THEM TO PASS UP AN OPPORTUNITY AT MAYHEM.

WELL, I'VE GOT THE ***TALON FIGHTER.***

ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW HER A LITTLE, SHE HANDLES LIKE A DREAM.

CHA THOOOM

FOR GRAYSKULL! FOR THE SORCERESS!

RETURN TO THE EARTH FROM WHENCE YOU CAME, WORMS!

MAKE WAY FOR THE NEW KING OF ETERNIA!

MAKE WAY FOR *DARKSEID.*

YOUR MASTERY OF THE BLACK ARTS IS IMPRESSIVE, *EVIL-LYN.*

BUT YOU'LL FIND ITS USE UNNECESSARY ONCE I ATTAIN THE *ANTI-LIFE EQUATION.*

OF WHAT USE IS MANIPULATION WHEN THERE IS NO WILL?

KRAGHN!

WHAT NEED IS THERE FOR NECROMANCY WHEN THERE IS NO DEATH?

RGHK!

WHAT NEED WILL THERE BE AT ALL...

...IF ONLY *DARKSEID* IS?

YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE, *HE-MAN.*

HIS NAME WAS *BILLY. BILLY BATSON.*

HE WAS ABOUT YOUR AGE. SAME YOUTHFUL *NAÏVETÉ.*

HE SAW EVERYTHING SO SIMPLY. CLEAR RIGHT AND WRONG. GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS. BLACK AND WHITE AND NOTHING IN BETWEEN.

KA-POW

HE THOUGHT THAT HE COULD FIX EVERY PROBLEM WITH THE MAGIC WORD HE GOT FROM A WHITE-BEARDED WIZARD. BECAUSE FOR BILLY, ALL IT TOOK TO BE A HERO WAS TO SAY *"SHAZAM."*

WHOOM

I HAD TO *KILL HIM,* TOO.

I KNOW. I KNOW ABOUT THE MONSTER YOU ARE NOW, AND THE MAN YOU USED TO BE.

I KNOW YOU WERE ONCE A SEEKER OF TRUTH. A "REPORTER."

THOK

EVER SINCE LOIS DIED, THOUGH, YOU'VE STOPPED LOOKING FOR THE TRUTH. YOU ACCEPTED LIES. YOU LIED TO YOURSELF.

YOU TOLD YOURSELF THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY AND THAT YOU WERE DOING WHAT WAS BEST FOR EVERYONE, WHILE HEROES AND INNOCENTS DIED.

AND WORST OF ALL, YOU DECIDED YOU DIDN'T NEED THE REPORTER ANYMORE. THAT YOU COULD BE ***SUPERMAN*** WITHOUT ***CLARK KENT.***

BUT YOU NEEDED CLARK AS MUCH AS HE-MAN NEEDS ***PRINCE ADAM.***

THUNK

BECAUSE WITHOUT ***HIM*** YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR ***HUMANITY.***

HGK, NO.

I'M SORRY, SUPERMAN. THERE'S NOTHING LEFT IN YOU TO SAVE.

AGHK!

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT THE MACHINE.

Y-YES. THE *MACHINE.*

BRAINIAC'S MACHINE LET ME TAKE CONTROL. IT LET ME BRING PEACE.

THE MACHINE IS *EVERYWHERE.*

THE MACHINE IS IN *YOU,* HE-MAN. YOU TOOK THE *KRYPTECH ARMOR* AS YOUR OWN.

THAT MAKES YOU *MINE.*

AAGH!

YES! DESTROY THE DISSIDENT, SUPERMAN!

HNGH.

DIANA. WE WERE FRIENDS. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

HNH!

NOTHING HAPPENED TO ME, BRUCE.

THERE WAS A WAR. I CHOSE THE RIGHT SIDE.

AND YOU WERE ALWAYS TOO STUBBORN TO ADMIT YOU CHOSE THE WRONG ONE.

UNTIL NOW.

TELL ME, BATMAN. YOU SEE THAT OUR WAY WAS BETTER, DON'T YOU?

WE GAVE THEM A WORLD WITHOUT CRIME AND CONFLICT.

ADMIT TO ME THAT THE EARTH WE *MADE* IS THE ONE *YOU* ALWAYS WANTED.

NNNH.

NOT EVEN YOU CAN RESIST *THE LASSO OF HESTIA.*

UNBURDEN YOURSELF OF--

...

NO. *DIANA!*

THIS *IS* WAR, BATMAN. WAR HAS CASUALTIES.

GOOD...

...GOOD SOLDIER.

BOOM BOOM BOOM

BY THE GODDESS.

SORCERESS. LET ME IN.

NONE BUT THE BEARER OF THE POWER SWORD MAY ENTER THIS HALL!

CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM

ZAKRAM!

VERY WELL, *GUARDIAN.* I BEAR NO POWER SWORD.

BUT I DO POSSESS THE *OMEGA EFFECT.*

HNH. I'M SORRY, GIRL. I'M SO SORRY.

FZZTK

"IT IS THE ENERGY TO DELIVER THE DEATH THAT IS LIFE TO ANYTHING THAT DARES NOT BEND TO MY WILL.

NO COLLECTION OF STONES WILL STAND IN MY WAY.

SSHRRR

NO.

NO.

NO!

NO MAGIC WILL STOP ME. I DENY IT!

IT IS NOTHING BEFORE MY WILL.

NO.

I ACTUALLY WANT TO THANK YOU, HE-MAN. FOR TOO LONG, MY LIFE HAS BEEN WATCHING FROM AFAR WHILE OTHERS ENFORCE MY JUSTICE.

BUT THIS...THIS WAS FUN. THIS IS WHAT I NEEDED.

A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED STREET FIGHT--

HNH. GHK.

WHAT...

THE KRYPTECH. YOU...YOU CHANGED IT.

ZK ZAK

AAGH!

SHRZAK

THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL FLOWS THROUGH IT. YOU'VE CONNECTED YOURSELF DIRECTLY TO A CONDUIT FOR THE TWO THINGS YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CONQUER OR CONTAIN, SUPERMAN.

MAGIC.

AND HOPE.

KRAM

AN IMPRESSIVE STRUCTURE. PERHAPS WHEN ALL THAT LIVES IS MY SLAVE, I'LL HAVE IT TAKEN APART BRICK BY BRICK AND MOVED TO ***APOKOLIPS,*** TO BE USED AS A LATRINE FOR THE ***HUNGER DOGS.***

YOU WILL NEVER HAVE THE ***ORB OF POWER!***

HNGH!

THE ORB OF POWER. THE SUM TOTAL OF THE WISDOM OF THE ***COUNCIL OF ELDERS,*** WHICH THIS KEEP WAS BUILT TO PROTECT.

SOUGHT BY DEMONS, WIZARDS AND SERPENTINE CONQUERORS FOR THE SECRETS IT CONTAINS.

KRAK

YOU CAN KEEP IT, MY LADY.

BEAUTIFUL BIRDIE. GRANNY WILL LOVE BREAKING HER.

IN GOOD TIME. FIRST, ***THE SOUL SYPHON.***

I KNOW ALL THINGS, SORCERESS. ALL THINGS BUT ONE.

THERE IS A TALE, UNKNOWN TO MOST, OF AN AGE LONG PAST, WHEN THERE LIVED A YOUNG MAN NAMED ***HE-RO, THE MOST POWERFUL WIZARD IN THE UNIVERSE.***

IN HIS QUEST FOR UNIVERSAL PEACE AND HARMONY HE CAME UPON ***AN EQUATION.***

THE EQUATION WAS SO POWERFUL IT CONVINCED ANY WHO VIEWED IT OF THE ***FUTILITY OF EXISTENCE*** AND MADE THEM PLIABLE TO ***COMPLETE DOMINATION.***

HE-RO, RECOGNIZING THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A THING, BURIED IT IN HIS MIND, HOPING TO PREVENT IT FROM BEING DISCOVERED BY ANYONE ELSE.

SO STRONG WAS HIS WILL THAT EVEN UPON DEATH, HIS SPIRIT CARRIED ON, GUARDING THE EQUATION AND GIVING THIS FABLED KEEP ITS POWER FOR EONS.

"AND PERHAPS IT WOULD HAVE FOR EONS MORE...IF ***ALL THINGS*** DID NOT ***END*** WITH DARKSEID."

AAHHHH!

AH.
NO.
NOT NOW.
NOT--
AAAHH!
SHRZAK
OH GOLLY.
HNH.
WELL, HELLO THERE, *PRINCE ADAM.*
HE-MAN HAD SUCH NICE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT YOU.
ADAM!
JUST LET THE BOY GO, *CLARK.* IT'S DONE. GIVE UP.
GIVE UP? BUT IT'S JUST GETTING INTERESTING, BRUCE.
SKELETOR! I'VE GOT A NEW MAGICAL ARTIFACT FOR YOU TO EXPERIMENT ON. THIS ONE *SCREAMS.*
SKELETOR?

MAN-AT-ARMS...

DON'T STRUGGLE, OLD FRIEND.

AVION. IT WAS CONQUERED. MY SISTER, SHE...

GRAYSKULL, DUNCAN. DID IT HOLD?

STRATOS...

GRAYSKULL HAS FALLEN.

I--I SEE HE-RO'S LIFE. THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND PEACE. LOVE. LOSS.

DISGUSTING.

TELL ME, DARKSEID. IS THE LONELINESS OF GOOD EQUAL TO THE DESOLATION OF EVIL?

AH. MY SERVILE LACKEY. AS YOU CAN SEE, MY PLAN HAS COME TO FRUITION.

CLEARLY, FATE DECREED MY VICTORY WHEN IT DEPOSITED YOU UPON APOKOLIPS, BROKEN AND BURNING LIKE A FALLEN STAR.

YOU'VE DONE YOUR PART. COME IN. KNEEL FOR YOUR MASTER.

FOR YEARS I'VE ATTEMPTED TO ENTER THIS PLACE. BUT ONLY ONE CARRYING A BLADE IMBUED WITH THE POWER OF A *GREAT WIZARD* COULD ENTER AND TAKE ITS SECRETS.

HE-MAN HAD THAT SWORD. AND HE WOULDN'T GIVE IT UP.

SO, "MASTER," MY ONLY CHOICE--IF I WAS GOING TO TAKE WHAT WAS RIGHTFULLY MINE--WAS TO MAKE MY OWN...

...AND IMBUE IT WITH THE POWER OF *ANOTHER* GREAT WIZARD.

A WIZARD NAMED...

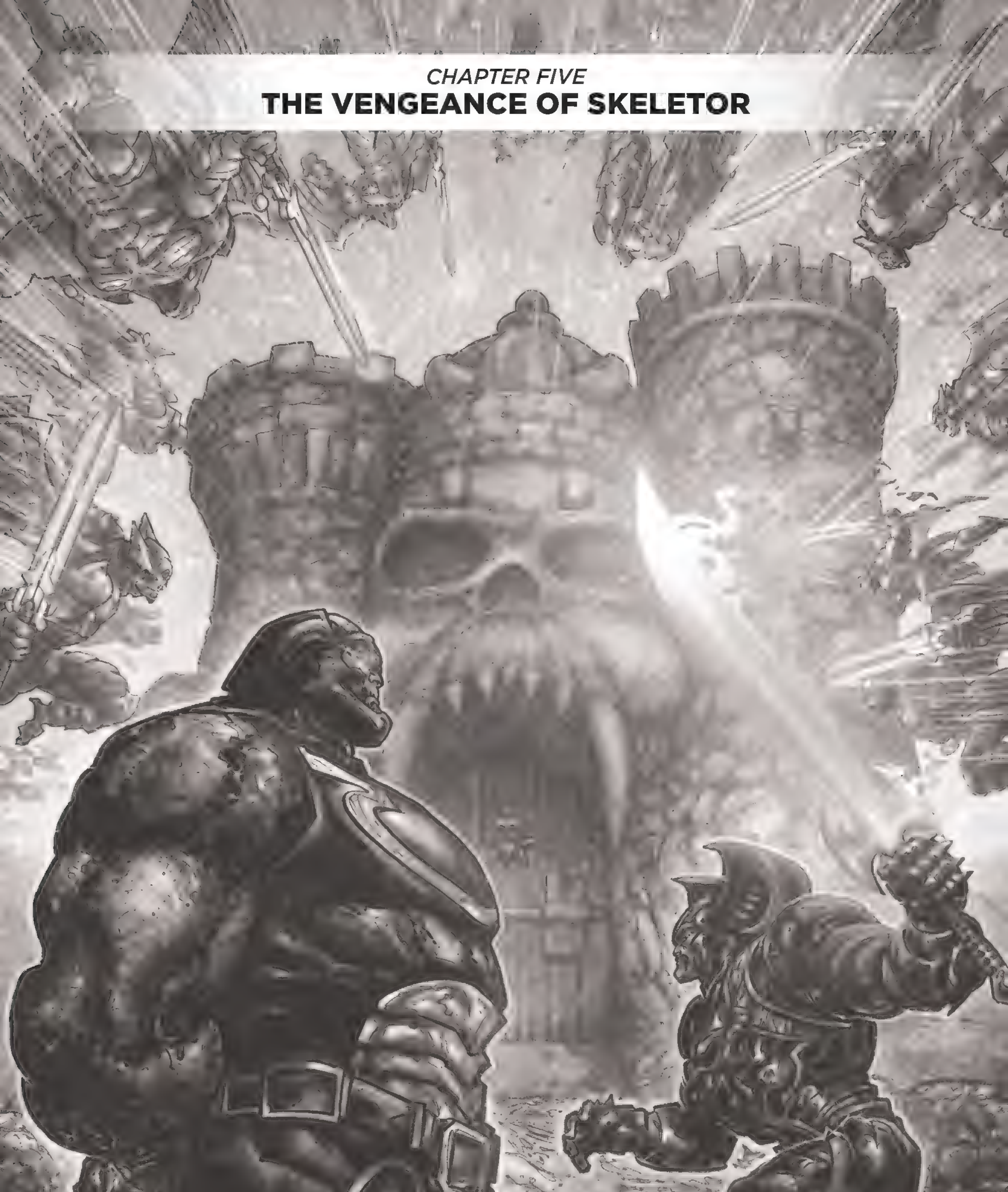
SHAZAM!

The ULTIMATE BATTLEGROUND

DAVE
WILLIAMS
Colwell

CHAPTER FIVE

THE VENGEANCE OF SKELETOR



I DON'T NEED *SKELETOR* OR ANYONE ELSE TO KILL YOU, *PRINCE ADAM.* YOU'RE NOTHING WITHOUT YOUR *MAGIC CASTLE.*

I WANT YOU TO EXPIRE SLOWLY, KNOWING THAT AS SOON AS YOUR LAST BREATH ESCAPES...

NNGH.

...EVERY ONE OF YOUR *INSURRECTIONIST ALLIES* WILL BURN OR BREAK...

The Black Oracle. Metropolis Crater.

...IN THE SECONDS IT TAKES FOR YOUR BRAIN TO DIE.

ADAM... WE NEED YOU...

SUPERMAN... *D--DARKSEID...*

WHAT DID YOU SAY? DARKSEID?!

THE SORCERESS. SHE SAYS...SHE SAYS DARKSEID IS ON ETERNIA. HE STOLE THE SPIRIT OF GRAYSKULL. AND HE HAS THE *ANTI-LIFE EQUATION...*

NNGH.

IT WAS THEIR PLAN ALL ALONG. DARKSEID AND *SKELETOR.*

WHILE YOU AND HE-MAN KEPT EACH OTHER BUSY, DARKSEID ATTACKED ETERNIA.

THE EQUATION. THE ULTIMATE SPELL. TO HEAR IT IS TO BE ROBBED OF THE WILL TO LIVE.

EARTH IS STRAIGHT-UP BONED.

NO.

NO!

THIS IS *MY* WORLD, *ZATANNA!*

I CONTROL IT!

HAHA.

HAHAHAH.

HA--

AGHK.

:KOFF:

:KOFF:

WONDER WOMAN. STOP. YOUR WOUNDS--

D-DON'T YOU SEE, *BRUCE?* HE WAS A *TROJAN HORSE.*

HE CAME BEARING GIFTS. THE ABILITY TO FIND DANGEROUS ARTIFACTS. A SIMPERING, LOYAL, GRATEFUL SEER TO HELP US ROOT OUT THE RESISTANCE.

SUPERMAN BROUGHT HIM IN. PITIED HIM. GAVE HIM DARK MAGIC.

HE'S RETURNED TO THE NOW *UNGUARDED* REPOSITORY FOR ALL THE KNOWLEDGE IN THE UNIVERSE.

HNGH.

YES, TEELA. AND HE'S BURSTING AT THE SEAMS...

"...WITH THE POWER OF *SHAZAM.*"

Eternia.

GRAYSKULL WILL BE MINE AND *MINE ALONE!*

SHRAK

NO... SKELETOR HAS BREACHED THE CASTLE...

SAVE YOUR WORRY FOR GRANNY'S TORMENTS, *SORCERESS.* THAT TRAITOROUS GHOUL WON'T LAST BUT A SECOND AGAINST THE MIGHT OF *LORD DARKSEID...*

I HOPE.

THE VENGEANCE OF SKELETOR

YOUR MASTER ATTACKS LORD DARKSEID! WHAT TREACHERY IS THIS, *EVIL-LYN?!*

THE KIND OF TREACHERY, *MANTIS,* THAT SKELETOR LEARNED FROM *ME.*

PARADEMONS! THE ALLIANCE IS OVER! SLAY THEM!

REND SKELETOR'S MINIONS LIMB FROM LIMB!

I LEFT BEHIND THREE SQUARES A DAY AND A WARM BED FOR *THIS?!*

DIE FREE AND KILL FREELY!

WHY ARE YOU SMILING, WITCH?!

HNGH. I JUST NOTICED THAT YOU'RE RUNNING LOW ON PRECIOUS *ANTIMATTER ENERGY, NEW GOD...*

...AND IN YOUR DESPERATION, YOU'VE SENT A SWARM OF THE *UNDEAD...*

...AGAINST ETERNIA'S GREATEST *NECROMANCER.*

AAGH!

DAMIAN. HE'S...

BRUCE. I--

YOUR WAR COST ME MY *SON,* SUPERMAN. DIANA KILLED HIM. NOW SHE'S BLEEDING OUT. THE ONLY WAY SHE'LL FACE JUSTICE IS IF SHE *LIVES.*

STOP TIME FOR HER. SEND HER TO THE *PHANTOM ZONE.*

AND WHILE YOU'VE GOT THE DOOR OPENED.

BRING BACK *KARA,* CLARK. RELEASE *SUPERGIRL.*

THIS *ISN'T* THE OLD DAYS, BATMAN. YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO.

A WORLD IS UNDER SIEGE. DARKSEID HAS THE *ANTI-LIFE EQUATION. NO ONE* IS SAFE.

WE NEED TO STOP HIM AND HIS ALLIES.

TOGETHER.

YOU'LL HELP ME STOP DARKSEID SO I CAN BRING PEACE TO THE UNIVERSE. AND THEN SUBMIT TO YOUR SENTENCE FOR INSURRECTION.

YOU'LL HELP ME ELIMINATE A THREAT WORSE THAN YOU. AND THEN I'LL BRING YOU DOWN MYSELF.

EVEN WITHOUT ***BRAINIAC***, I KNOW THE MATH. A TEAM-UP IT IS. UNTIL IT ISN'T.

NO.

BATMAN. I'VE FOUGHT BESIDE YOUR FORMIDABLE WARRIORS.

PLEASE BRING THEM TO ETERNIA AND LEAD THEM AGAINST SKELETOR'S MINIONS. GIVE THEM THE FIGHT OF THEIR LIVES.

WITHIN GRAYSKULL IS AN INFINITE LABYRINTH AND A ***THRESHOLD*** ONLY A BEARER OF THE ***POWER SWORD*** MAY OPEN. SUPERMAN GOES WITH ME.

DARKSEID IS ***A GOD.***

YOU'RE JUST A KID.

I'M HE-MAN. ***WITH*** THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL...

...OR ***WITHOUT.***

...WE RUSH THEM FROM THE SIDE AND PUSH THEM AWAY FROM THE GATE. MAYBE KICK A FEW INTO THE CHASM WHILE WE'RE AT IT.

MAN-AT-ARMS. I FEEL...A CHANGE... IN ***THE GREEN...*** A STRAND HAS BROKEN IN THE WEB OF LIFE...

I--I FELT IT, TOO, ***SWAMP THING. THE SPIRIT OF GRAYSKULL*** IS NO MORE. WE'RE ***ALONE.***

NOW NOW, ***MOSSMAN...***

...YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE YOUR OLD FRIEND ***EVIL-LYN.***

ANNIHILATE THE ***MASTERS*** AND THEIR ALIEN ALLIES!

HNH. SOMETHING ELSE...IN THE GREEN.

MOSSMAN! SWAMP THING! WE NEED GIANT FLYTRAPS! VINES! POLLEN!

ANYTHING!

YES, MAN-AT-ARMS... I BELIEVE I CAN GIVE YOU...***ANYTHING...***

...AND MORE.

WHAT'S THE PLAN, DADDY-BATS?!

YOU'RE PART OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE NOW, QUINN.

PICK A MONSTER AND START PUNCHING.

I AM THE NIGHT! I AM VENGEANCE!

YOU MANIPULATED THIS ALL FROM THE BEGINNING. SINCE THE MOMENT THE ***HUNGER DOGS*** FISHED YOUR WITHERED BODY OUT OF THAT ***ARMAGETTO GUTTER.***

YOUR OFFER TO SET OUR ENEMIES AGAINST EACH OTHER WAS FIRMLY ROOTED IN YOUR DESIRE TO RESTORE YOURSELF AND ATTAIN A SOURCE OF GREAT POWER. LIKE THE ***ROCK OF ETERNITY*** THAT YOU NOW WIELD.

ALL OF THIS MANIPULATION SO YOU COULD COME HERE.

KATHOOM

TO THE DEEPEST RECESSES OF ***CASTLE GRAYSKULL.***

TO ***THE NEXUS OF ALL REALITIES*** THAT CAST YOU FROM YOUR UNIVERSE ONTO MY WORLD.

AND TO THE NEXUS' FABLED HEART: ***THE ORB OF POWER.***

I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, AND WATCHED IT SLIP BETWEEN MY FINGERS.

I WILL HAVE KNOWLEDGE. I WILL HAVE POWER.

I WILL HAVE *ETERNIA!*

YOU ARE TENACIOUS. BUT YOU DESIRE REVENGE. RESPECT.

PERHAPS EVEN LOVE.

YOU *WANT,* SKELETOR.

WHILE I SIMPLY SEEK TO PROVIDE THE *GIFT* OF ERADICATING FREE WILL. I AM A FORCE OF NATURE.

I AM ETERNAL. IMMUTABLE.

AAAIIGH!

INEVITABLE.

THROOM

NOW THE *SOUL SYPHON* WILL GIVE ME THE *ONLY* KNOWLEDGE THAT MATTERS.

IT IS FITTING THAT I BEGIN THE *ENSLAVEMENT* OF ALL LIFE HERE ON YOUR PATHETIC ADOPTED PLANET, SKELETOR.

EVEN MORE FITTING THAT UPON HEARING THE DARK GOSPEL, *YOU* WILL FINALLY BE THE SERVANT YOU *PRETENDED* TO BE.

HNH.

NO...

LONELINESS + ALIENATION + FEAR + DESPAIR...

WHO DARES--?!

KRAKRAK

BRAVO.

YOU'RE GOING TO FALL NOW, DARKSEID. JUST LIKE YOUR *SON.*

I'M QUITE HAPPY TO SEE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SKEWERED ON THE END OF THAT BARBARIAN'S SWORD, SUPERMAN.

YOU SULLIED MY REPUTATION BY KILLING *KALIBAK.*

GODS MAY DIE. BUT ONLY AT DARKSEID'S HANDS.

KRAKADOOM

OH DEAR DEAR. ***THE MAN OF STEEL*** IS HERE FOR LORD DARKSEID. THEIR BATTLES HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO SPLIT PLANETS, YOU KNOW. BEST TO GET OUT OF THE WAY, I SAY.

I'M AFRAID THERE WON'T BE TIME FOR ***GRANNY GOODNESS*** TO PROPERLY BREAK YOU, PRETTY BIRD.

FORTUNATELY, THERE ARE MORE EFFICIENT WAYS TO ***DIE FOR DARKSEID.***

GET AWAY FROM HER, YOU BLOATED OLD BAG!

WOK

HNK!

THE ***CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD*** RETURNS. I'VE WATCHED YOU FROM AFAR, ***TEELA.***

SHROOM

SO RELENTLESS. SO UNFORGIVING.

YOU'D HAVE MADE A ***FINE FURY--***

MGH.

CAT--ASTROPHIC-- DAMAGE. FZZYSTEM FZKAILURE...

FURY. MY OWN COUSIN TRAPPED ME IN A HELL OF MIRRORS.

LET ME TELL YOU ALL ABOUT *FURY!*

KOOM

IS-- IS THAT YOU, *GODDESS?*

IT'S *TEELA.* I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.

HE'S DOWN THERE, ISN'T HE? SUPERMAN, THAT SON OF A--

YES, *SUPERGIRL.* HE'S DOWN THERE.

BUT RIGHT NOW WE NEED HIM. THE UNIVERSE NEEDS HIM, GODS HELP US.

SO I WANT YOU TO TAKE ALL OF THAT ANGER AND RESENTMENT OUTSIDE...

"...AND WIN THIS WAR FOR US."

I KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME EVENTUALLY.

BOOM

BAM

PRISON CAMPS FOR DISSENTERS. MASS THOUGHT CONTROL. A POPULATION ON ITS KNEES.

SHRRRR

ZZAK

SOONER OR LATER, YOU WOULD HAVE GROWN HUNGRY FOR MORE. MORE SUBJECTS. MORE CAMPS. MORE CONTROL.

HNH.

DESPITE YOUR INSISTENCE OTHERWISE, YOU'VE DECIDED TO BECOME ME.

AND THERE IS ONLY ROOM FOR ONE DARKSEID.

N-NO. I--I'M NOT TRYING TO BECOME *YOU*...

THOK

I INTEND *TO* WIN.

ADAM! *NOW!*

SHAK

TT.

THOK

W--WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

I USED THE KEY TO OPEN THE ORB OF POWER. IT'S REACHING OUT. CONVERTING THAT WHICH IT TOUCHES INTO *INFORMATION...*

...TO BE GATHERED AND STORED BESIDE THE *COUNCIL OF ELDERS...*

NO.

"...AND USED BY STUDENTS OF GREAT WILL IN THE PURSUIT OF *WISDOM* AND *INDIVIDUALITY*."

NO.

AAAIGH!

THUNK

YOU'LL SERVE... WHAT YOU HATE... *HNH.*

AH...*HIGH COUNCILOR.*

DARKSEID IS GONE. PRINCE ADAM HAD A FAINTING SPELL OR SOME SUCH.

I'M DELIGHTED THAT MY GRAND PLAN WORKED SO WELL.

AS I INTENDED, ***YOU*** NOW CONTROL THE ORB ***AND*** THE SPIRIT OF GRAYSKULL. A DOORWAY TO INFINITY AND THE WORDS TO COMMAND IT.

SURELY YOU COULD USE A WISE SEER FAMILIAR WITH THEIR GREAT POWER.

SOMEONE LOYAL AND ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HEROIC SELFLESSNESS.

YES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PART IN THIS, SKELETOR.

I'LL USE THESE TOOLS TO ELIMINATE EVIL. ***ALL EVIL.***

AND I'M GOING TO START WITH *YOU.*

SPLOK!

=UHGK=

SKELETOR!

PRINCE ADAM...

TELL... HE-MAN... I'VE MISSED HIM...=

SUPERMAN! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I'VE DONE, ADAM.

BECAUSE I'M GOING TO *FIX* IT ALL.

FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II
Colwell

CHAPTER SIX

THE KING OF CASTLE GRAYSKULL

Castle Grayskull.

Eternia.

BARBARIANS! TRAITORS! DARKSEID MAY BE LOST, BUT NOTHING SHALL STOP ME FROM INCINERATING ALL WHO STAND AGAINST *APOKOLIPS!*

KA-THOOM

CYBORG! DOWN!

BRUCE. IS THAT YOU?

YES, OLD FRIEND. CLARK... *SUPERMAN* IS HERE, TOO. HE HELPED *HE-MAN* AGAINST DARKSEID.

MANTIS. HE'S--

--OUT COLD.

HNGHK.

THOOM

TOOK ME A FEW CHROMONS TO REALIZE HE'S AN *ANTIMATTER ENERGY VAMPIRE...*

...SO I WHIPPED UP A QUICK PARTICLE ACCELERATOR. ORKO WAS SO BUSY TELLING ME HOW HE HELPED SAVE EARTH, HE DIDN'T EVEN OFFER TO HELP.

BATMAN, THIS IS ***MAN-AT-ARMS.*** I THINK YOU GUYS WILL GET ALONG.

SHRZAK

VICTOR SPOKE HIGHLY OF YOU. WELCOME, FRIEND.

LET'S TRY NOT TO DIE. TOGETHER.

HNGH. DE--DESAAD--

WHAT NOW, MANTIS? I'M BUSY TRYING TO FIX THE NECRO-FURNACE. THAT DAMNED AMBER WITCH AND HER SPELLS--

SFT

SERVE... *EVIL-LYN...*

THE WAR IS OVER, DESAAD. DARKSEID HAS FALLEN. THE CASTLE IS LOST.

*BRING THE **ORBITAL INTIMIDATOR.***

BURN IT ALL DOWN.

The Heart of Castle Grayskull.

The Nexus of All Realities.

WHEN YOU LOSE SOMEONE... WHEN THEY DIE, YOU ALWAYS THINK: WHAT IF SOMETHING COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT? ANYTHING. MAYBE EVEN JUST ONE LITTLE THING.

WOULD THAT HAVE CHANGED ANYTHING? WOULD THEY STILL BE HERE INSTEAD OF *GONE FOREVER?*

THE NEXUS SHOWS EVERY POSSIBLE UNIVERSE. EVERY CHOICE IS ITS OWN WORLD. TO STEP INTO THE STREAM WITHOUT A GUIDE IS TO BE SWEPT INTO THE CURRENTS OF THE MULTIVERSE AND BE UNCREATED.

BUT YOU KNOW HOW TO CONTROL IT WITH THE *ORB OF POWER,* ADAM.

The King of Castle Grayskull

NO, *SUPERMAN.*

I WON'T HELP YOU. NOT AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

I HAVE DARKSEID'S ***SOUL SYPHON. THE SPIRIT OF GRAYSKULL*** IS MINE ALONG WITH THE ***ANTI-LIFE EQUATION.***

YOU CAN'T BECOME ***HE-MAN,*** PRINCE. YOU DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO FULFILL YOUR PROMISE TO ***KILL*** ME AND FREE EARTH FROM MY ***REGIME.***

BUT YOU CAN GUIDE ME INTO THE NEXUS. YOU CAN LET ME FIX IT ALL. SAVE COUNTLESS LIVES.

YOU CAN HELP ME SAVE ***CLARK KENT.***

WE'RE HERE. *METROPOLIS.*

IT'S...IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

THIS IS IT. THAT MORNING. BEFORE I FOUND JIMMY ON THE DOCKS.

WHEN I WENT AFTER THE JOKER. WHEN HE DOSED ME WITH *FEAR TOXIN,* AND I...

AND I KILLED MY OWN WIFE AND SON.

IF ANYTHING HAD BEEN DIFFERENT, JIMMY AND LOIS COULD STILL BE ALIVE. MY SON COULD HAVE...

SHOW ME, ADAM. SHOW ME THE PATHS NOT TAKEN TO BETTER WORLDS.

HEY, *SUPERGIRL?* BEFORE YOU BREAK ANY MORE BAD GUYS, MAYBE YOU SHOULD ASK YOURSELF WHOSE FACE YOU'RE THINKING OF.

THAT GUY? HE AIN'T SUPERMAN.

AAAAGGH!

SHTICH

NO. BUT HE'LL JUST HAVE TO DO FOR NOW.

OW. EW.

IT'S UTTER CHAOS, *STARFIRE.* SKELETOR'S FORCES AGAINST DARKSEID'S--

WITH THE *WARRIORS* AND *JUSTICE LEAGUE* TRAPPED BETWEEN. WE--

RANGH!

X'HAL!

MY PEOPLE, TURNED INTO SHRIEKING SERVANTS BY THESE CRUEL GODS.

STOP FIGHTING, WARRIOR, SO I CAN GIVE YOU MERCY...

RANGH!

DOOM DOOM DOOM

HAWKE. MY SISTER--

STRATOS! LOOK!

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME ANY RAGE DIRECTED AT THAT THING WOULD BE TRANSFERENCE FROM *BRAINIAC'S SKULLSHIP*, DR. QUINN.

DOOM DOOM DOOM

NAW.

FTHOOM

I'M GONNA LET YA HAVE THIS ONE, BLONDIE.

ENOUGH!

I SAW THEM...

I SAW THEM ALL.

A BILLION DIFFERENT CHOICES BRANCHING FROM HERE. A BILLION DIFFERENT REALITIES.

I SAW WORLDS WITHOUT *THE REGIME.*

BECAUSE LOIS...MY SON...

THEY LIVED.

FOR A TIME.

AND THEN, EVENTUALLY THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING ELSE.

A DRUNK DRIVER. AN EARTHQUAKE. A HEART ATTACK. CANCER.

TRIPPING ON THE DAMNED STAIRS.

THERE WAS ALWAYS *SOMETHING* I COULDN'T *CONTROL.*

MY BRAIN WORKS LIKE A COMPUTER-- WITH BRAINIAC OR WITHOUT HIM.

I KNOW HOW TO SEE NOW. YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE THE ORB OF POWER.

THE ONLY WAY TO BE SURE EVERYTHING GOES THE RIGHT WAY IS TO DIRECT IT MYSELF.

I'LL USE THE ***SPIRIT OF GRAYSKULL*** AND THE ***ORB*** TOGETHER. SPREAD THE ***ANTI-LIFE EQUATION*** THROUGH EVERY UNIVERSE.

I'LL MAKE SURE NO ONE RESISTS. THAT EVERYONE IS SAVED.

I'M SORRY THAT YOU HAVE TO DIE, ADAM. YOU'RE A GOOD MAN.

HGK.

NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU.

HGK...

ADAM.

WHERE--?

THIS IS MY HOME.

ENVY

PRIDE

HATRED

SELFISHNESS

LAZINESS

INJUSTICE

WELCOME TO THE **ROCK OF ETERNITY.** IT IS EVERYWHERE, BESIDE NOTHING, INDIRECTLY ADJACENT TO YOUR OWN **CASTLE GRAYSKULL.**

ONCE, I SHARED MY GREAT POWER WITH A BOY NAMED **BILLY BATSON.**

AND THEN SUPERMAN KILLED HIM.

I KNOW.

THEN SKELETOR TOOK YOUR POWER FOR HIMSELF. AND SUPERMAN MURDERED HIM, TOO.

YES. SKELETOR. HE STOLE MY MAGIC FROM ITS INTENDED REPLACEMENT HOSTS AND PUT IT IN A **POWER SWORD.**

SCOUNDREL OF A DEMON. HE SHOULD BE INTERRED IN STONE ALONG WITH THE OTHERS ON MY WALL.

BUT YOU SEE, THE SELF-PROCLAIMED **LORD OF DESTRUCTION** DID US A BIT OF A FAVOR BEFORE HIS BLACK HEART STOPPED.

HE PASSED THE POWER OF THE **SIX IMMORTAL ELDERS** TO A WORTHY HOST.

YOU, PRINCE ADAM.

THE ASPECTS OF **SOLOMON, HERCULES, ATLAS, ZEUS, ACHILLES** AND **MERCURY** RESIDE IN YOU NOW.

GO.

ALL IT TAKES TO BE A HERO...

...IS ONE LITTLE WORD.

SHAZAM!

KRAKA-DOOM

KRA THOOM

HAHA HAHAHA HAHA!

HA. *WHEW.* I DON'T KNOW WHY I ALWAYS STAY OUT OF BATTLE. IT'S QUITE A JOY IF YOU DO IT CORRECTLY.

AHK!

YOU.

CLICK KO

YOU USED THESE PEOPLE. TURNED THEIR BODIES AGAINST THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

I-I SIMPLY SERVE DARKSEID'S WILL. REALLY, THE *NECRO-ENGINE* DOES MOST OF THE WORK...

NOT ANYMORE.

THROOM

RANGH!

HAWKE! PLEASE! DON'T MAKE ME--

AGK.

STRATOS?

THE DARK ENERGIES EXTINGUISH.

THERE IS LITTLE TIME.

I-I WILL GIVE YOUR LOVE TO MOTHER AND FATHER WHEN I GET TO THE *ENDLESS SKIES.*

A-AND I GIVE MINE...

...TO YOU.

HAWKE?

THE MAGIC OF SHAZAM, ENHANCED BY THE ORB OF POWER.

YOU'RE DONE, SUPERMAN.

Y-YES.

ADAM. IN... IN SOME OF THOSE OTHER WORLDS...

...WE BECOME FRIENDS.

I--

AH.

AHHHHHHH!

NO! VICTORY IS STILL POSSIBLE! ETERNIA IS IN THE PALM OF MY HAND! IT MUST BE!!

YOUR WARRIORS ARE DEFEATED. YOUR ALLIES FLEEING.

AND AS FOR YOU, *EVIL-LYN...*

SHISA K

OOF!

...I BELIEVE WE'VE ALL HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH.

PLEASE, DESAAD. RESIST MORE.

NO, THAT'S ALL THE FIGHTING FOR ME TODAY, THANK YOU.

CLK

BOOM

"I'M SURE MY BRETHREN WOULD SAY THE SAME. AND WITH NO DARKSEID TO COME HOME TO...

BOOM

"...THERE'S CERTAINLY LESS FEAR OF A HASTY RETREAT.

I'LL CATCH YOU LATER, MY DEAR. THE QUESTION IS...

"...WHO WILL CATCH THE *ORBITAL INTIMIDATOR?*"

OH NO.

NO, NO, NO...

KA-THROOM

HNGH.

HOW--?!

HRRNGH!

THUROOM

DARKSEID AND SKELETOR HAVE BEEN DEFEATED. CASTLE GRAYSKULL IS SAVED.

WOOF.

SUPERMAN. IS HE--?

A BLACK RACER CAME.

HE TOOK SUPERMAN'S HAND AND OFFERED A REUNION WITH HIS FAMILY.

YOUR WORLD IS FREE.

AND SO IS CLARK KENT.

AND SO THE WOUNDED WERE TREATED. THE DEAD GATHERED.

THE VICTORY SOLEMNLY CELEBRATED.

SWAMP THING AND MOSSMAN PLANTED A TREE ON THE GRAVE OF EACH OF THE PEOPLE OF AVION WHO FELL IN THE ASSAULT.

THE TREES GREW INSTANTLY, REACHING HIGH INTO THE SKY WHERE THE BIRDMEN ONCE SOARED.

THE SORCERESS RETURNED TO CASTLE GRAYSKULL, WHERE SHE GUARDS ALL THE WISDOM AND POWER IN THE UNIVERSE...

EXCEPT FOR THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION WHICH REMAINS THE SOLEMN DUTY OF THE SPIRIT OF HE-RO.

THE REMAINS OF THE ORBITAL INTIMIDATOR WERE TURNED INTO A NEW HYPERSECURITY PRISON BY MAN-AT-ARMS AND BATMAN. AN INMATE EXCHANGE WAS INITIATED TO ENSURE SAFETY.

EVIL-LYN AND HER NEW ROOMMATE, DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA, DO NOT GET ALONG.

SKELETOR'S BODY DISAPPEARED FROM THE BOWELS OF CASTLE GRAYSKULL.

ZATANNA AND THE SORCERESS KEEP VIGIL OVER **THE MULTIVERSE** SHOULD HE REAPPEAR.

BATMAN AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE RETURNED TO EARTH, DISMANTLING BRAINIAC'S LEFTOVER TECHNOLOGY AND **THE REGIME** IT HAD UPHELD.

THE LEAGUE'S NUMBERS SWELLED AS OLD HEROES RETURNED TO DUTY, AND NEW ONES STEPPED UP...

LIKE **KARA ZOR-EL,** WHO HOPED TO REMIND PEOPLE WHAT THE SYMBOL SHE WEARS ORIGINALLY STOOD FOR...

...AND **REGINA TAYLOR,** BEARER OF THE POWER OF **SHAZAM,** WHO TOOK INSPIRATION FROM A TALE TOLD BY A BARBARIAN WARRIOR.

SHE CALLS HERSELF **QUEEN MARVEL.**

HE-MAN, THE **BARBARIAN HERO**, CONTINUES TO RIDE DOWN FROM THE HILLS TO SAVE **CIVILIZATION**, AND RUNS BACK OFF UNTIL HE'S NEEDED AGAIN.

EXCEPT WHEN HE'S PRINCE ADAM. THEN HE'S ALWAYS THERE.

AND WHEN HIS MOTHER BEGINS TO TELL TALES OF HER HOMEWORLD, HE ALWAYS STOPS WHATEVER HE'S DOING TO LISTEN.

ON **APOKOLIPS**, THE VACUUM OF LEADERSHIP THAT APPEARED IN DARKSEID'S ABSENCE...

...IS FILLED BY THE FALLEN **RED LANTERN ATROCITUS**, WHO HAS JOINED WITH THE CONQUEROR **HORDAK** TO FORM THE **HORDE CORPS**.

IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS GREAT UPSET TO THE **COSMOGONIC EQUILIBRIUM** THAT THE **BLACK RACER** SAW FIT TO SPARE ME FROM THE **GREAT DARKNESS**, AND INTRODUCE ME TO ANOTHER OF HIS PANTHEON.

OPEN **ENFORCER** LOG.

ENTRY 738967.

I AM **ZODAC** OF THE **COSMIC ENFORCERS.**

AND THIS IS **METRON** OF THE **NEW GODS.**

TOGETHER WE RACE TO ENSURE THE RETURN OF BALANCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL...

...BY SEARCHING OUT CHAMPIONS FROM EACH OF THE UNIVERSES WE ARE CHARGED TO OBSERVE.

AND WE KNOW NOW...

...JUST WHERE TO LOOK.

THE END

"He-Man and *Injustice* are a winning team." ***—IGN***

"Epic." ***—CBR***

THE DARK KNIGHT CONFRONTS THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL!

The realm of Eternia faces untold challenges when the champions of the best-selling fighting game *Injustice* come to He-Man seeking help! And when Skeletor allies himself with the dark Superman and Wonder Woman on the other side of the battle, INJUSTICE VS. MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE becomes a war that spans *two* universes!

Prince Adam, a.k.a. He-Man, has regained his throne, but the secrets his people learned during his disappearance have left his authority severely weakened. When Adam accepts an invitation to help Batman, Harley Quinn, Green Arrow, Starfire and other heroes of the world of *Injustice*, the evil Skeletor sees a chance to defeat his enemy once and for all by offering Superman his own insights on how to defeat He-Man, Teela and the other Masters of the Universe! Plus: Swamp Thing and Mossman find common ground, Darkseid comes to Castle Grayskull and even more surprises await courtesy of writer Tim Seeley (NIGHTWING) and artist Freddie E. Williams II (HE-MAN/THUNDERCATS)!

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